

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The present invention provides a method of screening for  
5 agonists of an oxysterol activator of LXR $\alpha$  transcription,  
comprising the steps of: introducing a reporter construct and an LXR  
expression construct into a host cell; treating the host cell with  
potential LXR-specific ligands; and identifying compounds which  
activate LXR $\alpha$  transcription. Also provided is a method of screening  
10 for antagonists of an oxysterol activator of LXR $\alpha$  transcription,  
comprising the steps of: introducing a reporter construct and an LXR  
expression construct into a host cell; pretreating the host cell with  
activators of LXR $\alpha$  transcription; contacting the host cell with  
potential antagonists of LXR $\alpha$  transcription; and identifying  
15 compounds which block the activation the LXR $\alpha$  transcription.